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ON THE COVER

Delegates to the Annual General Assembly 99 in Whapmagoostui.

Photographer: Neil Diamond

Cover Design: Sylvia Tennisco



God was watching over her

On a mild winter night, my niece was brought home by two police officers. She had been drinking and was found lying in the snow. I think it was by the grace of God that the person who found her decided to smoke outside.

The lady said, "She saw a person staggering and kept falling many times. The last time she fell she didn't get up right away." I guess that's when she decided to call the police.

She was brought home soaking wet to her bones. My mother was told to change her clothes and take her to the hospital. When they got there, she was immediately admitted and covered with heated blankets. When she was brought in, she was incoherent and foaming at the mouth. The doctor checked her body temperature. He said it was low.

The next day when my mother went to get her, she was still groggy and talking gibberish. My mother was told that if the night had been colder and snowing or if she was found much later, you wouldn't be seeing her sitting with us today!

My niece was only 12 years old when this incident happened. She's now 14, alive and healthy. She was asked by the doctor who sold the booze to them and she has named the person. My mother said, "If she were taken from me, no amount of words would or could be said to mend my broken heart. I have been living with my grandchild for 11 years now."

It was by the words of encouragement of the doctor who attended to my niece that I'm writing this, so all could read.

My mother was told she could go on the air at the radio station and talk about this with the doctor by her side. She said she will someday, but right now putting it down on paper is the thing to do.

In closing we (the family) would like to thank the lady who found her and the two police officers who brought her home. We are forever in your debt and praise the Lord for you every day. Their names are Bessie Napash, Donna Rupert and Christopher Cox Sr.

Written by Joanne Snowboy for my mother Emily Snowboy

We are witnessing a revolution in Cree politics with this election in more ways than one. Or is your head so far up your butt that you didn't notice the election styles becoming more and more like the US presidential and the Canadian campaigns.

Check out the candidate's ads in this issue. The short and sweet: Vote so and so. New Ideas from a New Leader for a New Millennium. Another reads: The Balanced Choice. This Guy for Chief. Still another proclaims: Let's Get to work on our future for a strong and united Cree Nation! Now I don't know if this is a bad turn of styles. I remember in a past election years ago, two of the candidates had, very humbly, posted up their cv's at the local store bulletin board for the voters. And that was it. They might have done a radio spot or two, but who listened to those with all the bingos on the air to enjoy?

So now it's come to this. It's only a matter of time before we'll have silver-tongued (not that a few aren't already) Cree politicians wearing phony smiles, wading through adoring and not so adoring throngs, shaking hands, and kissing babies. But that's a long way off and I'm glad I won't be around to witness it. On second thought, I would like to see the mudslinging that is sure to take place. But that's it, man. (You gotta used that word in your school assignments sometimes, kids. Teachers love it.)

Another revolution, if that's not too strong a word, is the fact that Matthew...excuse my French...Doctor Matthew Coon Come is not running. He's stepping down! He's thrown in the towel! He's relinquishing his crown! I know, that's stunning news. Oh Eeyou Estchee, tell it not in Quebec. Publish it not in the streets of Ottawa. Lest the daughters of Hydro-Quebec rejoice. Lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph...oops! Got a little carried away there.

Seriously, it's the end of an era. Hence the mad scramble for power we're witnesses to. I think it's safe to say that

a majority of the Cree population have never known anyone but the Doctor at the helm of the good ship Eeyou. And it's also safe to say a majority of these little brats don't follow Cree politics and they just don't care. Yet. They're too busy causing trouble, staying out till the wee hours and making their poor parents worry.

But we care, don't we? We want someone at the top who's every word and action is feared and respected by the kind folk at Hydra-Quebec. We want someone who will inspire us, who will unite us, who will listen, who will lead us, and most importantly, serve us.

And so, as we bid adieu to Matthew, we can only hope and pray that his potential replacement will carry on with the same zeal, professionalism and strength. Even if most of them are geeks, nincompoops, and political morons.

All ass kissing aside, this is a great time for Cree political junkies isn't it? There's so much going on. So much to see. Oh how the mighty have fallen all over the place. Case in point, Chief Billy Diamond is no longer Chief Billy Diamond. Billy, who usually doesn't return our reporters' phone calls and continually denies requests for interviews suddenly opened up and filled up an entire half page(!) of our humble magazine (pg. 25). Billy has a flair for the dramatic and offered Alex some foreboding words on his political future. So he's still someone to watch.

A final word. The advance polls are on August 25 and the big one on August 31st. Go out there and put the X in the little box and don't go over the lines. Remember the last Quebec referendum. With all the strange things that have been happening in Creeland lately, it's better to be paranoid than sorry.

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What, me vote?

What did you do in the election? your grandchildren may ask you one day. If you're like most Crees, one thing you didn't do is vote.

Because of ultra-low election turnouts, most Cree elected officials get in with only a tiny fraction of the total eligible vote.

Less than half registered voters bother to cast a ballot in most Cree elections. In many communities, only 25 percent usually vote.

Since it's possible to get elected with as little as 30 percent of the votes cast, this means some Cree leaders really have the support of only one in 10 voters.

Why do most Crees stay away on election day? We put the question to 25 Crees on both sides of James Bay randomly chosen in a phone survey last week.

"I guess it's the people who are running," said one person in Whapmagoostui, echoing the most common response. "I guess they don't think those people should be running."

A Fort Albany woman who said she "usually votes" in elections said many people don't bother to because "sometimes they say it's fixed."

A few non-voters said they don't follow politics "or whatever the game is."

One Wemindji woman who "always" votes said many people just don't think their ballot will count. "The person they wanted to vote for is going to lose. Some people don't want to vote for the chief, but he ends up winning anyway."

One Cree woman said people don't vote because elections are "boring." "There's not enough interest because they (the candidates) don't capture the heart of the nation."

A few people said some Crees don't vote because they live outside the community on traplines or go to school in the South.

Another said: "Probably most people are not properly informed, especially the old people. It's not explained in a way they would understand."

But despite the complaints, a hard-to-believe 80 percent of those surveyed claimed they still plan to vote in approaching local and regional elections. **-A.R.**



WEISTCHE WAVE WINS WASKAGANISH

Robert Weistche rode a tidal wave of support into his new job as chief of Waskaganish on a platform of change.

With a record turnout nearly three times the usual number, Weistche cruised into the position with 294 votes, or 49 percent.

Weistche got more votes than the entire turnout in elections past. Returning officer Susan Moses had to make a few trips to the photocopier when she ran out of ballots.

"We never expected that many voters," she said the day following the August 12 election, after a busy night of counting ballots and two hours of sleep. "We've never had that many. Normally, we have just over 200."

In all, 597 people turned out in the election, or 66 percent of the 906 eligible voters. In past community elections, turnout has usually hovered around 25 percent.

Weistche was still trying to figure it all out when we reached him during his second day on the job. "When I found out about it, I was quite taken aback. It kind of hit me like a wave," he said. "It's quite far-out, the feeling I have" (see full interview, page 23).

Weistche said he will stay on in his current job as chairman of the Cree School Board for a few months to make sure there is a smooth transition to his successor there.

He said he stood for change in how the band is run. "I really feel that the millenium has been a long thousand years. People are tired and they are feeling maybe it's time for a change," he said.

One of his first priorities is reviewing the band's books, which an outside auditor slammed as being in a mess last year. "I want the band to un-

dergo an extensive financial review. We need to know where the money is coming from and where it's going - and who is benefiting," said Weistche who was elected to a four-year term.

He promised to report back to the community inside 12 months. He also expressed concern about the band's debt, which he said is over \$7 million. "We're going to need to seriously make a political commitment to changes in the financial management, accountability and practices of the band."

Billy Diamond, the former chief, didn't run again. "I've been chief for 11 years. That was too long. It gets to be very stressful," he said. Diamond said he has "no comment" on Weistche's plans to overhaul the band's management. Diamond was nominated to run for Grand Chief in the August 31 election, but he declined.

Weistche also promised to try to ease the community's housing crisis and said Crees have been kept in the dark on Hydro-Quebec's proposed partnership to build a new \$2-billion-plus hydro project.

Jack Diamond came in second in the election with 33 percent of the vote (199), followed by Ian Diamond with 11 percent (64 votes) and Jimmy Trapper's 6 percent (33 votes). Seven ballots were spoiled.

Elected to the new council are: Bert Blackned, William T. Hester, Paul Moses, Gretta Whiskeychan Cheechoo and Samson Weistche. Also elected: John Paul Murdoch (Cree Regional Authority rep), Bert Blackned (Cree Health Board rep) and Kathy Black (Board of Compensation rep).

by Alex Roslin



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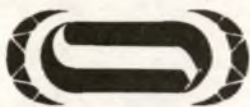
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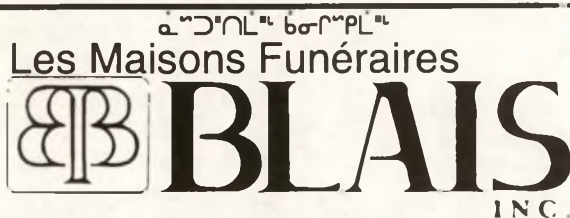
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EASTMAIN OPEN TO H-Q DEAL: NEWSPAPER

Val d'Or's *L'Echo* newspaper reports that the people of Eastmain are open to Hydro-Quebec's proposed Eastmain hydro project.

The newspaper ran a story on July 28 with this headline: "The Crees of Eastmain are interested in a partnership."

It quotes Eastmain Chief Kenneth Gilpin speaking favourably about the \$2-billion-plus project, which would see the diversion of the Rupert River.

Twenty years ago, Crees may have rejected the project, Gilpin is reported as saying. "But we are in 1999," he goes on. "We are heading into a new millenium. I think the Crees have understood now that they must learn to accept changes. People are more open," Gilpin says.

"We are going in a good direction. It is time to accept this type of change, above all if the Cree Nation is very young."

A second story in the same issue says Hydro-Quebec is hoping to announce the project in Eastmain on Nov. 11 - the 25th anniversary of the signing of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement of 1975.

But some Eastmain members feel the article is misleading. "To me, it came as a surprise," said Ted Moses, an Eastmain member who is also the Cree ambassador to the United Nations. "I think the paper didn't get its facts right."

Moses said he was present at a community assembly July 27 to 29, where the hydro project was discussed in the presence of top Hydro-Quebec officials.

Moses said the people who spoke up were all against the project, with no exceptions. "As far as I know,

there was a consensus that people didn't want the hydro project. Everybody who voiced an opinion said we have had enough hydro development," he said.

"There were a lot of emotions expressed about how people feel about the loss of land in the first project. No one said we'll accept partnerships."

Gilpin couldn't be reached for comment.

Moses also said he is concerned about Gilpin's comments on hydro development at the Annual General Assembly earlier this month. A resolution to oppose hydro projects was deferred after Gilpin said he hadn't yet consulted his community on the hydro project.

Moses said people have already made their opinion clear. "How much more consultation do we need when people say we don't want hydro-electric development, period?"

Sylvain Paradis, the journalist who wrote the stories, told *The Nation* he stands by his story and is confident he quoted Gilpin accurately. He said he interviewed Gilpin on July 23, before the community assembly.

While in Eastmain, Hydro-Quebec's officials promised to respect any Cree decision on whether the partnership deal will go ahead. The utility has offered to let Crees invest in the project in exchange for a cut of the profits. But H-Q has offered few details of what exactly the joint venture would look like, like how much Crees would have to invest. Despite the negative reception, Hydro vice-president Thierry Vandal reportedly said

he was still "optimistic" after the meeting in Eastmain.

by Alex Roslin

Matthew not running again

It is the end of an era. After 12 years as Grand Chief, Matthew Coon Come has decided to call it quits and won't be running again for another term in the August 31 election.

Matthew kept getting re-elected with no problems and most people believe he could have won again with ease. But friends say 12 years in the demanding job can take a toll. We'll try to track him down for a "debriefing" interview for an upcoming issue.

Six candidates will be going for the top job this time. They are: **George Blacksmith** (principal of Voyageur Memorial School), **Kenny Blacksmith** (former deputy grand chief), **Kenny Loon** (chief of Mistissini), **Ted Moses** (former Grand Chief, currently Cree ambassador to the United Nations), **Eddie Pachano** (who runs Chisasibi's Mitchuap Community Centre) and **Romeo Saganash** (former deputy grand chief).

The race for deputy grand chief should be just as interesting.

The election has attracted nine candidates, including three sitting chiefs. The next DGC will be one of the following: **Charles Bobbish** (former chief of Chisasibi), **Edward Gilpin Jr.** (president of the Cree Trappers' Association), **Kenneth Gilpin** (Eastmain's chief), **Paul Gull** (former chairman of the Cree School Board), **Ashley Iserhoff** (chief of the Cree Nation Youth Council), **John Kitchen** (chief of Waswanipi), **Lisa Petagumksum-Masty** (Whapmagoostui band council member), **Matthew Mukash** (chief of Whapmagoostui) and last but not least **William Nicholls** (editor of *The Nation*).

Meanwhile, in Waswanipi, the community is getting ready for local elections on August 30. The candidates for chief are: **Claude Otter**, **Alfred Jolly**, **Paul Gull**, **Robert Kitchen**, **Lily Sutherland** and **Flora B. Kitchen**.

Moose Factory returns Ernest Beck 4th time

Ernest Beck has been elected to a fourth term as chief of the Moose Cree First Nation with 73 percent of the vote.

continued on page 9

YEAR

MY DREAM FOR THE FUTURE...

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines, typical of notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

Please include your name, age and phone number with each response. Thank You.

Les Fêtes Gourmandes

BY WILLIAM NICHOLLS

The Fêtes Gourmandes is always something I look forward to. New tastes and smells. A chance to try something different or just to taste something I haven't had in a long time.

This year it was no different in terms of the new tastes and smells. With over 90 kiosks set up on Isle Notre-Dame, in the middle of the St. Lawrence River, there were sights to see and tastes to enjoy.

If you know my taste in the bizarre, you'll know why I headed right over to taste the snake stew. It was cobra. I think I can confidently say cobra won't be the meat of the future. The taste is a little insipid or bland and the meat is overly tender.

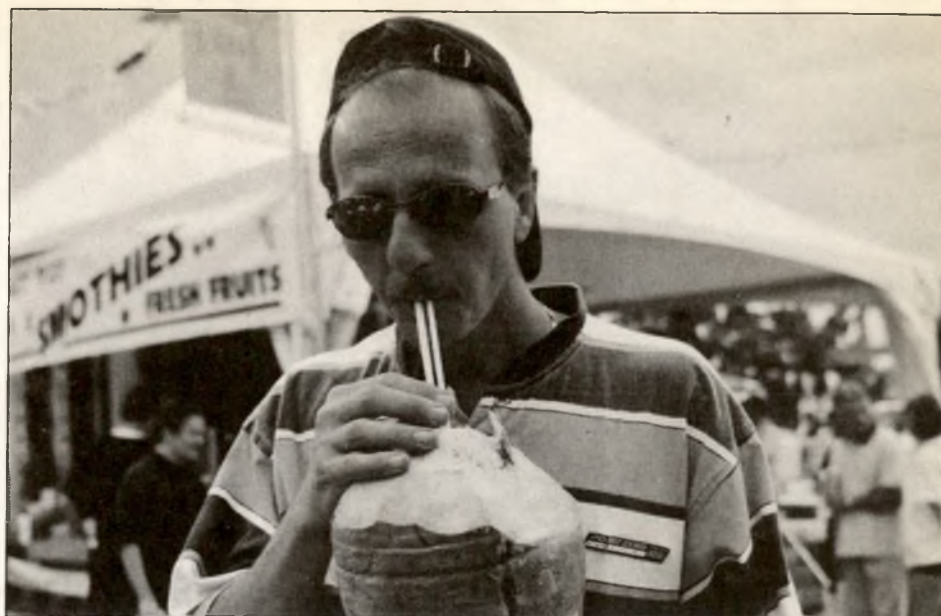
I concluded there wasn't enough taste to spend \$10 for a plate, but will say the sauce was the best thing about the meal. Now I know if I ever have to survive in the desert, I will gladly stew up a rattlesnake.

I must say there was one drink I found quite delicious. It was a strawberry wine slushy. I had never even heard about it before. It comes in either alcohol or non-alcohol forms. It's an experience you'll never forget - outasite. The only other drink I tried out and would recommend is mead, which is made from honey.

Moving back to the food I ate a portion of one of the feared predators of the oceans and seas of the world - black-tipped shark. It came all the way from South Carolina to meet my mouth. Not bad. It was marinated for a day and cooked through a "secret" process. It was tender and flavoured with a "special spice," according to the shark cook "Peter." He warns that you have to know the secret of cooking shark before you can get it to be tender though, so don't rush out to your local store to buy shark.

Alex went over and had to try out the emu and ostrich stand. I had done this the year before and felt no need to do it again. It is nice to know they are still in business, though.

Overall I would have to say the prices were high and the portions small, but it was a great place to sample new and exotic things. See you next year.



continued from page 7

Thelma Cheechoo-Moore, his opponent, got 27 percent in the August 18 election.

In all, 518 voters cast a ballot out of 1,104 eligible, for a turnout of 47 percent.

Charlie Cheechoo won for deputy chief with 52 percent of votes, and the youth councillor will be Leonard Rickard, who got 307 votes, or 59 percent.

The new council is: Roger Chum, Norm Hardisty Jr., Earl Cheechoo, William Carey, Eva Lazarus, Jean Wesley, Barb Chum, Kathy Tomatuk, Peter W. Wesley, Doug Rickard, Barb Hardisty and Joan Linklater.

Elections were also held the same day in New Post, but the results weren't ready before press time.

Keeshig goes belly-up

Air Creebec's latest competitor on the west coast of James Bay has gone out of business.

Keeshig Airlines, in operation for just a year, ceased its flights on August 10. It ran daily flights up the James Bay west coast.

That brings to five the number of rival airlines that have gone out of business on the west coast in the past three years, said Anne-Marie Farrington, marketing and operational support manager at Air Creebec.

"The demise of this airline has proved once again that there is room for only one airline in that market," said Farrington.

"We have never practiced predatory pricing. It was their own operations that led to their demise," she added.

Keeshig didn't return our calls.

The Timmins Daily Press reported that Keeshig had 100 employees who will now be out of a job in five cities.

Abraham Hunter, chief of Peawanuck, told the paper he was disappointed because Keeshig offered more regular service and cheaper flights than Air Creebec.

But Farrington said Air Creebec's prices "are exactly where they should be in that market." She left open the possibility that Air Creebec may put on more flights up the west coast "if that is required."

LETTERS

He doesn't care?

Letter to *The Nation*:

I am a Cree who is concerned about the image of our leaders.

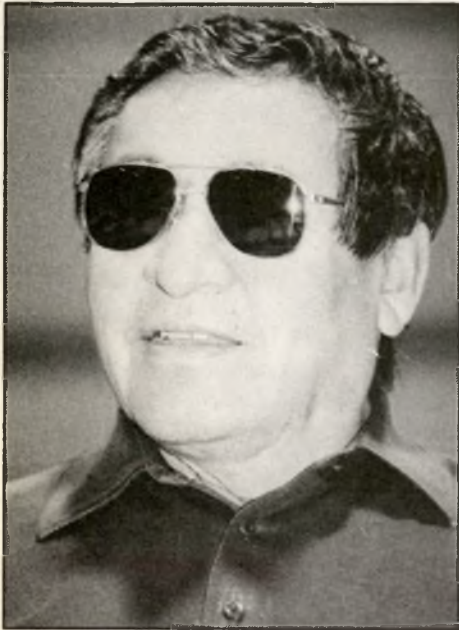
Through the grapevine I heard that Chief John Kitchen will be running for Deputy Grand Chief. Do we need a person like him to represent the Cree First Nation??

Our leaders should have a good life standard with family values and morals. Sure, he is a good politician, but his personal life is not. He can say people should not be concerned about his personal life. For me this matters a great deal.

A lot of people tried to help him with what he was going through, but he just does not care. Now is this the kind of leader we want!!!

From a member of Waswanipi

25TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY



The ancient James Bay Cree tradition of passing an anti-Hydro Development resolution was broken at this year's assembly in Whapmagoostui.

Ironically, it was in this very same community that the resolution originated ten years earlier. The resolution, usually passed quickly and unanimously at every assembly, went through the test this time. After much debate (Eastmain Chief, Mistissini Chief) and deliberation it was decided that the resolution would be deferred until a special assembly was held, prompting headlines in the Val d'Or media that the Crees were open to the projects.

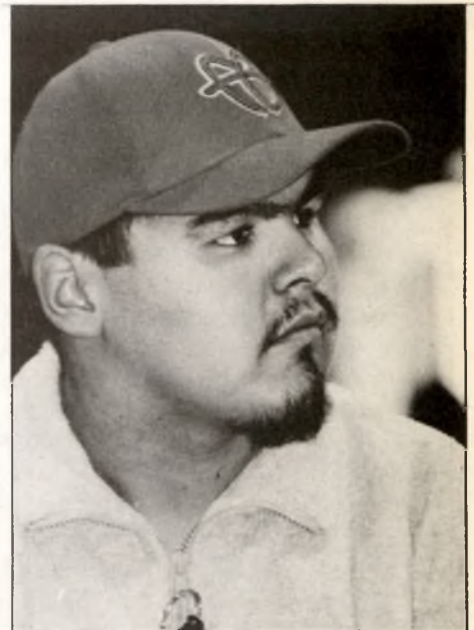
Judging by the time spent on the various entities, it seems as though a special assembly is also needed for Cree Health and education services. Emphasis placed by the delegates were on services provided to Crees during this assembly. Past assemblies seemed to focus more on the financial side of the entities. Robert Weistche and Sam Etapp provided the updates for the Cree School Board. Afterwards there was a question and answer session for them. The Washaaw Silbil Association was there to remind people that they were still around and still needed the

support from the people. Chief John Kitchen and Sam Etapp updated the assembly on the forestry issues. They wanted an interlocutory injunction on the forestry case and informed the assembly that the Mario Lord case could take 5 to 10 years. Glen Cooper summed it up with the question of how would one feel if someone came into your house and started taking stuff from your home. "How would you feel if they took your bed?..."

The financial health of the entities was less of a focus than during the Assemblies of past. In fact the focus or theme of the Assembly didn't really get around to being discussed. Cree Government, maybe we need a special assembly for that also. Perhaps more assemblies are needed for the Crees to help govern their affairs. Whenever people spoke they were ever mindful of taking too long lest they get cut off by the chairperson. This put a stress on people and many probably did not get to say what they wanted. There were even entities that didn't even make it on to the agenda.

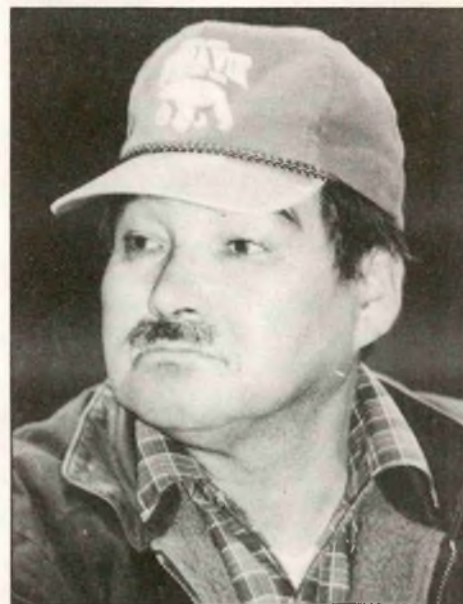
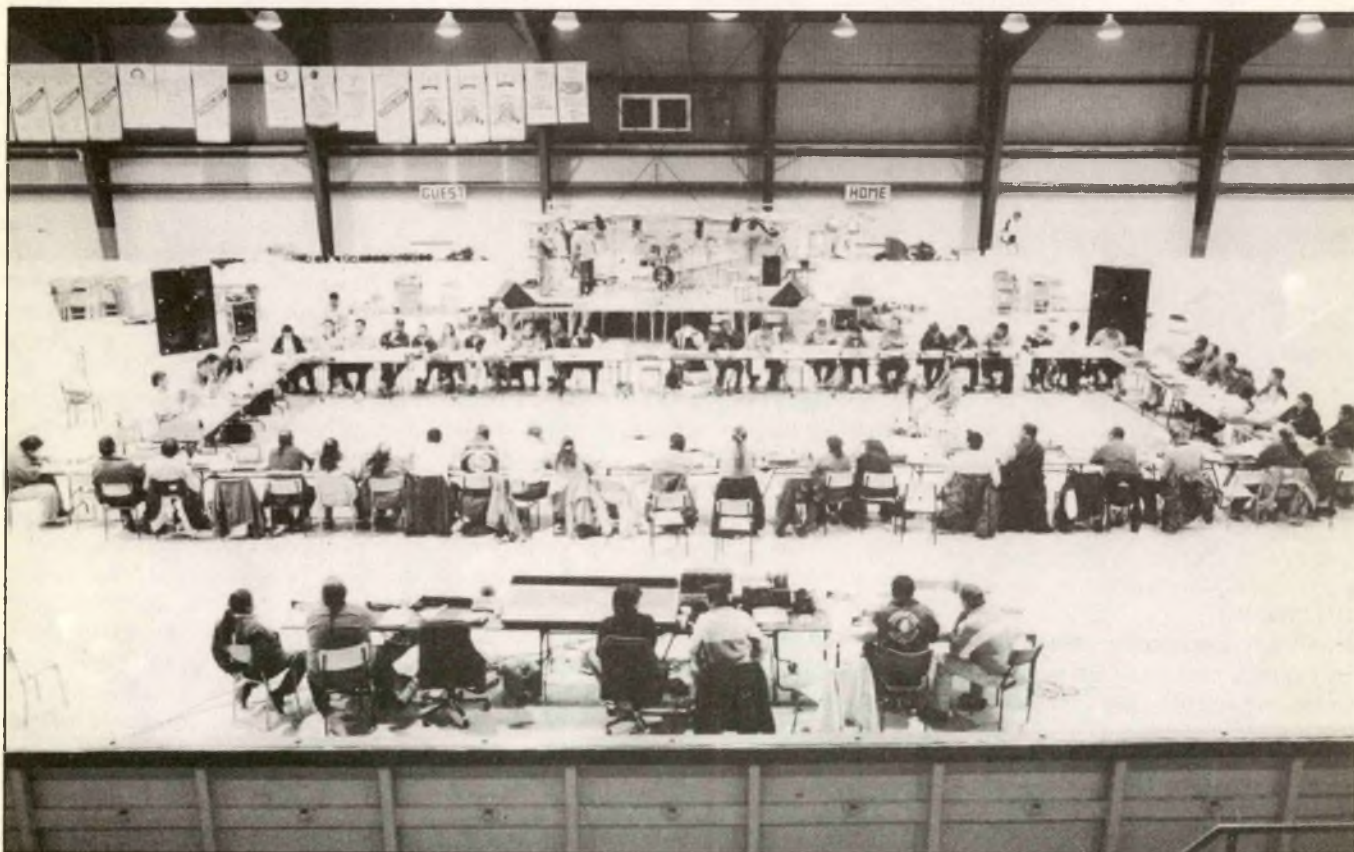
One comment that I recall from a conversation with Joseph Pepabano, Elder from Chisasibi, "If we don't stick together, we will scatter like caribou after being shot at."

Check out the resolutions on page 12



By Ernest Webb
Photos by Neil Diamond and
Ernest Webb

25TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY



more on page 12 and 13

25TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

You say you wanna resolution

Trappers assistance fund

Trappers may finally get some relief from forestry. Once again, the AGA has passed a resolution supporting a Cree Tallymen and Trappers Interim Forestry Assistance Program. The program was supported last year too, but the Board of Compensation refused to pay for it. Now, there's a new crew in charge of the Board of Compensation. And this time, the AGA didn't take any chances and mandated the Board of Comp and the Eeyou Corp. to "do all things deemed necessary" to create the program.

The fund would provide compensation to tallymen and other trappers hurt by forestry, "especially those in vulnerable financial circumstances," so they aren't tempted to sign "inadequate compensation offers" with forestry companies, thus threatening Cree collective rights.

Housing commission - take 3

For the third time, the AGA supported a resolution to create a Cree Housing Commission to review "the critical and urgent housing needs of the Cree communities." The problem keeps getting worse, but still no commission four years after the first resolution was adopted.

No to 10-year clause

The Cree Nation condemns the so-called 10-Year Clause as "illegal, discriminatory and a gross violation" of the constitution. The clause, found in the James Bay Agreement, deprives Crees of their status after they've lived outside the territory for 10 continuous years. The Cree communities are directed to "cease and desist" from complying with the rule and from supplying the Quebec government with names of people living outside Cree territory. The Grand Council is mandated to pursue the necessary amendments to the James Bay Agreement.

Trapline project

The AGA supports a request by the Waswanipi First Nation to fund the community's Trapline Forestry Management Project, which has a mandate to address forestry issues.

Cree rights and Quebec secession

"Quebec has no right under Canadian or international law to forcibly include the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee and their traditional

territory and resources in any new Quebec 'state,'" reads this resolution. Quebec continues to deny the Cree Nation's status as a "people," and yet another referendum is looming on the horizon. The AGA mandates the Grand Council to defend Cree rights during the coming debate and to hold another Cree referendum.

JBNQA

The James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement is flawed in many ways and was "entered into under terms of duress." But it still contains "many beneficial provisions" and is part of the "collective birthright" of the Cree people. Canada and Quebec have consistently denied that the agreement is a treaty and are trying to get Crees to "sign off" on the promises that the governments don't want to honour - even though this practice has been condemned by the United Nations. The AGA affirms the JBNQA is a treaty, rejects "unlawful and unjust efforts" of governments to wriggle out of its obligations and declares that it is a violation of Cree law for a Cree leader to negotiate away any Cree treaty rights.

Cree Nation government

The Cree Nation has the right to self-determination and has taken steps to implement it. The Grand Chief is mandated to review Cree government, consider new options, consult the people and study the example of other First Nations. It's all to be presented to a Special Assembly on Governance.

Cree Nation lands, resources and revenue

Another Special Assembly, this one on Revenue, Lands and Resources, is being called. First, they built the dams against "our expressed wishes." Then came the James Bay Agreement, negotiated "under conditions of duress." Now, the Cree Nation is "totally dependent on transfers and handouts" from other governments, money that is "consistently inadequate and insecure." Crees face high unemployment, overcrowding, ill health and other problems, while the wealth of the land is being taken. The Grand Chief is mandated to "comprehensively evaluate the natural wealth and resources in Eeyou Istchee," and the way they benefit and are controlled by outside entities and governments. The

Grand Chief is also directed to examine options for Crees to secure adequate sources of revenue and restore control over resources.

Hydro projects

This one didn't pass. A resolution declaring "firm opposition to any further hydro-electric development" was deferred to a Special Assembly on development projects, to be held this fall. The resolution said the project "would seriously affect Cree rights," and criticized Hydro-Quebec for failing to fulfill the JBNQA and undermining the unity of the Cree Nation. (See News, page 7, for more on this one.)

Special needs

The AGA backed a resolution from the Cree Nation of Chisasibi on people with special needs - a large part of the Cree population, higher than the Canadian average. Health care and education for these people are "totally inadequate to address even the basic needs." It is a "moral obligation" of Cree entities to support people with special needs. The AGA supports a professional assessment of the concerns related to persons with special needs.

Cree-Naskapi Commission and JBNQA

Despite a 1991 Inquiry, the Feds continue to deprive the Cree-Naskapi Commission of adequate funds and powers. The AGA calls on Canada to implement the Inquiry's recommendations. The AGA also asks the commission to report on the implementation of the JBNQA, which Canada has yet to live up to also.

Cree Nation youth election

The Cree Nation Youth Council is supported in a request to choose its chairperson by general election of Cree youth from all communities, at the same time as the Cree School Board's coming general election. The AGA also supports the youth council's "working agenda."

Elected officials

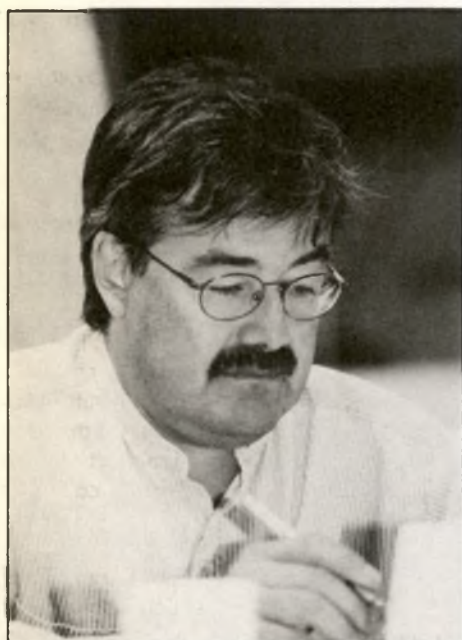
The Grand Chief and Deputy Grand Chief are full-time jobs and shouldn't hold other elected positions within the Cree Nation. So said the AGA.

...

See you in Mistissini for the AGA 2000.

- A. Roslin

25TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY



The Nation's Reader Survey

Who are our readers and what do they have to say about The Nation?

Please fill out this form, and return to us before **Sept. 3rd, 1999**
by fax: 514-278-9914 or mail to: The Nation, 5505 Blvd. St. Laurent, Suite 3018, Montreal, QC, H2T 1S6.

Send in your survey and **win!**

Free flights for 2 from anywhere Air Creebec flies to Val-d'Or and \$150 gift certificate at Beric Sports!

1 Gender:

☐ Male ☐ Female

2 Age:

☐ 0-12 ☐ 18-35 ☐ 51-64
☐ 13-17 ☐ 36-50 ☐ 65+

3 How many people live in your household?

☐ 1 to 2 ☐ 3 to 5 ☐ 6 to 10 ☐ 11 or more

4 How many people in your household fall in these age groups.

___ 0 - 5 ___ 6 - 12 ___ 13 - 17 ___ 18 - 35
___ 36 - 50 ___ 51 - 64 ___ 65+

5 How many people in your household work full-time?

☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5+

6 How many people in your household work part-time?

☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5+

7 Your annual income:

☐ \$0 to \$12,000 ☐ \$35,001 to \$50,000
☐ \$12,001 to \$20,000 ☐ \$50,001 to \$75,000
☐ \$20,001 to \$35,000 ☐ \$75,001+

8 Your household's annual income:

☐ \$0 to \$12,000 ☐ \$35,001 to \$50,000
☐ \$12,001 to \$20,000 ☐ \$50,001 to \$75,000
☐ \$20,001 to \$35,000 ☐ \$75,001+

9 Your highest level of education completed:

☐ some primary school ☐ cegep diploma
☐ some high school ☐ some university studies
☐ high school diploma ☐ university degree
☐ some cegep studies
☐ other (please specify) _____

10 Do you own a computer? (if no, go to question 14)

☐ yes ☐ no ☐ don't know

11 Do you have an Internet connection?

(If no, go to question 14)

☐ yes ☐ no ☐ don't know

12 How many hours per week do you and other members of your household spend connected to the Internet?

(sending emails, chatting, finding information, etc.)

☐ 0 to 5 ☐ 11 to 20 ☐ more than 41 hours
☐ 6 to 10 ☐ 21 to 40 ☐ don't know

13 How much do you spend per month on your internet connection bill?

☐ \$0 to \$30 ☐ \$51+
☐ \$31 to \$50 ☐ don't know

14 How much do you spend per month on your average phone bill?

☐ \$0 to \$30 ☐ \$51 - \$100
☐ \$31 to \$50 ☐ \$101+

15 Please indicate the number of items you own in your household of the following:

(Answer as many as applies)

___ car ___ boat
___ minivan ___ Sea Doo
___ pick-up truck ___ CD player
___ snowmobile ___ Computer
___ ATV ___ satellite dish

16 Which of these items have you bought in the last 12 months? (check as many as applies)

☐ car ☐ CD player ☐ music CD's
☐ minivan ☐ computer ☐ Sea Doo
☐ pick-up truck ☐ satellite dish ☐ video games
☐ snowmobile ☐ home appliances ☐ movie videos
☐ ATV ☐ new furniture ☐ boat

17 What items are you planning to buy in the next 12 months? (check as many as applies)

☐ car ☐ computer ☐ minivan
☐ microwave ☐ pick-up truck ☐ satellite dish
☐ snowmobile ☐ home appliances ☐ ATV
☐ new furniture ☐ boat ☐ clothes
☐ Sea Doo ☐ music CD's ☐ CD player
☐ video games ☐ movie videos

18 Overall, how much do you spend on gifts over the year? (birthdays, Christmas, special occasions, etc.)

☐ less than \$100 ☐ \$1001 to \$2000
☐ \$101 to \$500 ☐ \$2001 to \$5000
☐ \$501 to \$1000 ☐ \$5001 +

19 On average, how many times per year do you shop outside your community?

- ☐ never ☐ 13 to 25 times
☐ 1 to 5 times ☐ 26 to 50 times
☐ 6 to 12 times ☐ more than 51 times

20 When you leave your community to shop, where do you go the most often? (choose only one)

- ☐ Chibougamau ☐ Rouyn-Noranda ☐ North Bay
☐ Val d'Or ☐ Montreal ☐ Sudbury
☐ Amos ☐ Ottawa/Hull ☐ Toronto
☐ Radisson ☐ Québec city ☐ Matigami
☐ Timmins ☐ Other: (please specify) _____

21 How do you usually travel to these places?

(Choose only one)

- ☐ plane ☐ bus ☐ car
☐ other: (please specify) _____

22 On the average shopping trip outside of your community, how long do you stay:

- ☐ for only a few hours ☐ for the weekend
☐ overnight ☐ longer than a whole week
☐ for a whole week

23 On the average shopping trip outside your community, how much do you spend:

(shopping, food, entertainment, accomodations, etc.)

- ☐ \$0 to \$100 ☐ \$1001 to \$2000
☐ \$101 to \$500 ☐ \$2001 to \$5000
☐ \$501 to \$1000 ☐ \$5001 +

24 What do you plan on doing in the next 12 months:

(check as many as applies)

- ☐ get married ☐ move
☐ work more ☐ have a baby
☐ change eating habits ☐ lose weight
☐ quick smoking ☐ go on a trip
☐ do more exercise
☐ work less / spend more time with the family

25 Which Native publications do you read on a regular basis? Please list

26 Which non-Native publications do you read on a regular basis? Please list

27 Of the above 2 questions, which publication do you read the most? Please list only one

28 Please rate The Nation on the following:

"(1 being poor, 5 being excellent)"

Providing stories that are accurate

- | | | | | |
|-----------|------|--------------|------|-----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| very poor | poor | satisfactory | good | excellent |

Providing stories that are of interest

- | | | | | |
|-----------|------|--------------|------|-----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| very poor | poor | satisfactory | good | excellent |

Providing stories that are important

- | | | | | |
|-----------|------|--------------|------|-----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| very poor | poor | satisfactory | good | excellent |

29 What would you like to see more of in The Nation?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> news | <input type="checkbox"/> cultural features |
| <input type="checkbox"/> movie reviews | <input type="checkbox"/> sports |
| <input type="checkbox"/> family features | <input type="checkbox"/> video game |
| <input type="checkbox"/> reviews | <input type="checkbox"/> politics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> arts & entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> internet information |
| <input type="checkbox"/> health | <input type="checkbox"/> education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> home decorating | <input type="checkbox"/> classified ads |
| <input type="checkbox"/> women's issues | <input type="checkbox"/> fashion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cree legends | <input type="checkbox"/> music reviews |
| <input type="checkbox"/> product reviews | |

30 Please answer the following questions by circling a number.

(1 means you strongly disagree 5 means you strongly agree)

The Nation is the best source of information about news that affects James Bay.

- | | | | | |
|-------------------|----------|----------------------------|-------|----------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| strongly disagree | disagree | neither agree nor disagree | agree | strongly agree |

I like to read The Nation each issue.

- | | | | | |
|-------------------|----------|----------------------------|-------|----------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| strongly disagree | disagree | neither agree nor disagree | agree | strongly agree |

I think other Native papers offer more important information than The Nation.

- | | | | | |
|-------------------|----------|----------------------------|-------|----------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| strongly disagree | disagree | neither agree nor disagree | agree | strongly agree |

I think other non-Native papers offer more important information than The Nation.

- | | | | | |
|-------------------|----------|----------------------------|-------|----------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| strongly disagree | disagree | neither agree nor disagree | agree | strongly agree |

Answer this section only if you wish:

31 Name:

32 Address:



Kenny Loon, LL.B.

VOTE
Kenny Loon

**A Cree Lawyer
For
Grand Chief**

**To
Lead Cree People
Into The
New Millennium**

**A Strong Advocate for Preserving,
Promoting, and Advancing
Cree Rights and Interests
for all Cree People.**

A Leader who will be guided by his people.

**NEW IDEAS FROM A NEW LEADER
FOR A NEW MILLENNIUM**

Building Canoes

In Whapmagoostui



"My power comes from my leg," he said. "See that guy over there?... His leg is not well either so he learns very easily."

Steven Sheshamush talked of his skills as a carver. He uses a crutch to walk around. He said the problem with his leg gives him the power to carve. A legendary soapstone carver, Steven Sheshamush carries with him ancient Cree knowledge. The knowledge is being carried on to another group carvers.

Steven along with Samson Shem, Job Kawapit, Andrew Kawapit Sr. and Peter Sandy, and many onlookers, were in the process of building a canoe during the Annual General Assembly in Whapmagoostui. Steven was directing his crew during the canoe-building process. They handpicked and cut the wood used for the canoe across the river from the community. A raised platform of sand provided the support for the skeleton of the canoe. A canvas was stretched out between logs that were buried at the ends of the canoe.

Then, it seemed as if they built the canoe around the stretched canvas. The work site was covered in wood shavings. The felled trees were prepared by hand, cutting the trees to the appropriate lengths and then shaving with a Muukitakin and carpenter's

plane into pliable strips which would be used for the ribs. The spine or Wokinatuu would be inside, "which is the Cree way," Steven said. "The Wahmschtikuushuu have theirs on the outside."

Steven talks with the air and knowledge that he just may be one of the last Cree people able to build canoes and other tools in the traditional way. The confidence was very evident during the days we were there. He directed his crew as he sat in his chair, rising only when he had to. Sometimes he would personally carve some wood if it was at a sensitive time in the process. Using only his eyes for measurement, he always made sure someone saw how he carved a particular piece.

When I arrived in Whapmagoostui on Tuesday one of the first stops my guide Sonny took me to was the culture camp up on the hill, where they were building the canoe. By that time they had the frame and canvas in place. They were working on finishing up the slats for the ribs. Sometimes the weather would interrupt their progress. They then put the ends of the canoe in place. Next up were the gunwales which they were securing as we left on the Friday, leaving the ribs and finishing left to do.

More photos on page 19

Elections '99

Deputy Grand Chief Candidates

George Blacksmith
Kenny Blacksmith
Kenny Loon
Ted Moses
Eddie Pachano
Romeo Saganash

Charles Bobbish
Edward Gilpin
Kenneth Gilpin
Paul Gull
Ashley Iserhoff
John Kitchen
Lisa Petagumskum-Masty
Matthew Mukash
William E. Nicholls

The Grand Council would like to commend all these individuals for running in the elections and being part of the Cree democratic process. We encourage all Crees to participate in this expression of our Cree Nation Government.

Vote on August 31st, 1999
Advance Polls August 25, 1999
9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

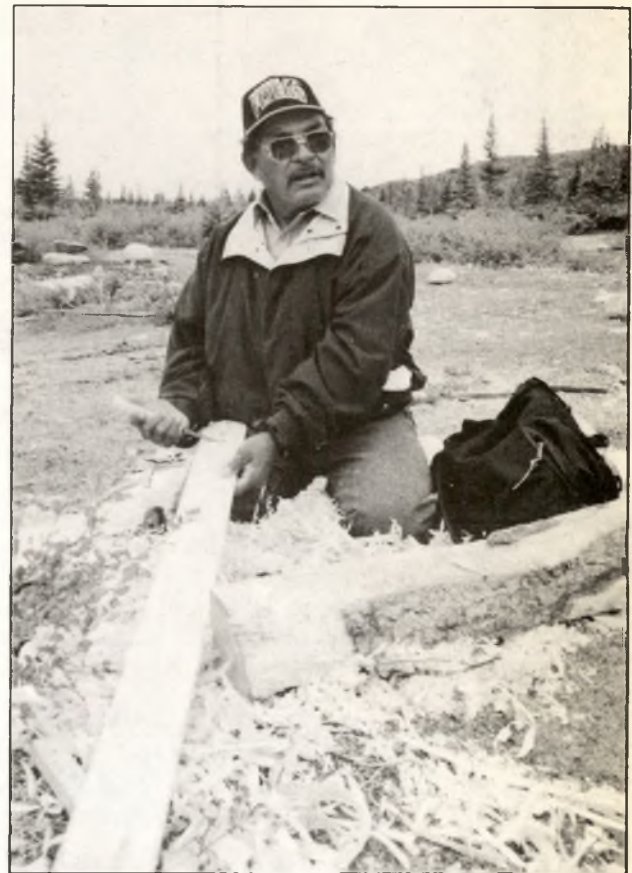


ᐱᐅ ᐱᐅᐱᐱ ᐱᐅᐱᐱ ᐱᐅᐱᐱ ᐱᐅᐱᐱ (ᐱᐅᐱᐱ ᐱᐅᐱᐱ)
GRAND COUNCIL OF THE CREES (EYYOU ASHTEH)
GRAND CONSEIL DES CRIS (EYYOU ASHTEH)



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ADMINISTRATION REGIONALE CRÉ

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The Balanced Choice



John Kitchen for Deputy Grand Chief Eeyou Astchee

Wachia!

After six years as Chief of Waswanipi, the people asked me to run for Deputy Grand Chief.

During the last 20 years that I invested to serve my community, I learned to listen and to pay attention to my people and their priorities. I also discovered that balance is very important when one wants a productive and happy life.

That is why I accepted to run for this election. I want to contribute to a balanced policy for Eeyou Astchee. Balance between traditions and jobs, between progress and accountability, between environment and economic development.

To attain this balance as a Cree Nation, we need to debate a few issues among ourselves. These debates should influence our decisions and how we intend to live on our land in the decades to come. However, the debates must not be controlled by civil servants and technicians but rather by the people themselves who have to decide on the issues affecting the Nation.

If you want these debates to happen in the near future, vote for me as your next Deputy Grand Chief.

Meeg'wetch
Chief John Kitchen

I am offering...

- To promote a friendly working environment with Chiefs and Grand Chief.
- To promote a balanced approach between the necessity to control access to our resources, a clean environment, job creation and economic development.
- To support businesses and economic projects.
- To adopt a less "political" approach on issues and promote practical solutions for problems.
- To listen to the community needs and support their initiatives.
- To promote more constructive relations with the government of Quebec (In this matter, the fact that I fluently speak Cree, French and English will help).
- To organize a regional conference on resource development, First Nations traditions and environment protection.
- To involve the people who work in the field during chiefs' meetings.
- To develop a common vision on our future.
- **Respect, Support, Action**

If you want to support my campaign or share your ideas, comments and projects with me, please do not hesitate to call me at the Waswanipi Cree First Nation Council office.

I will visit as many communities as I can during this short campaign. I sure hope that I will be able to meet with you, your family and your relatives.

Chief John Kitchen
Diom Blacksmith Building
Waswanipi, Eeyou Astchee, J0Y 3C0
819-753-2587
waswanipi@lino.com

election99
Thanks for your time!

United we stand

Xavier Kataquapit

It could be that the strength of our Aboriginal voice recently got a lot stronger with a signing of the joint protocol agreement between the Assembly First Nations, in Canada, and the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), from the United States of America. This historical agreement was signed July 23 in Vancouver by Grand Chief Phil Fontaine of the AFN and President Ron Allan of the NCAI. This conference, "Uniting First Nations - Tecumseh's Vision," was the first major meeting the First Nation people from Canada and the U.S. in 60 years.

This historic event was part of the AFN 20th annual general assembly and featured a trade show and business conference. More than 3,000 delegates attended from all over the world, including China, Taiwan, Mexico, South Africa, New Zealand, Guatemala, the United Nations, the Organization of America States, the United States and Canada.

The agreement is called the "Declaration of kinship and cooperation among the indigenous peoples and nations of North America through the Assembly of First Nations and the National Congress of American Indians."

As a First Nation person, my first thought was how does this historic agreement relate to me at the local level? So I'd picked up

the phone and called my friend, Shawn Batise, executive director of Wabun Tribal Council in Timmins, Ontario, who attended the conference. Shawn was accompanied on his trip to Vancouver with three of Wabun's chiefs - Chief Paul McKenzie of Wahgoshig First Nation, Chief Eleanor Hendrix of Matachewan First Nation and Chief Joyce Luke of Mattagami First Nation.

John explained that this agreement is more of a political accord which makes it easier for First Nations organizations in Canada to work with those in the U.S. He sees this as an opportunity for First Nation people in North America to have a stronger voice in Canada and the U.S. - two of the world's most prominent countries - and also globally.

Shawn compared the idea of the AFN and the NCAI banding together to how the six Wabun communities grouped together to form the Wabun Tribal Council. As a Tribal Council, these First Nation communities have a stronger voice and are represented the best way possible when it comes to dealing with government. He believes that in coming together First Nations people in Canada, the United States and globally will have a stronger voice with government and the United Nations. He still has concerns regarding the positive impact from this agreement at local levels, but he feels this accord is a progressive move.

I believe that Shawn and our First Nation leadership are right in their support of this historic accord. If you want anything done these days it helps to have a lot of support and to be able to bring clout to the bargaining table. This accord is a move in the direction.

Let's get to work on our future for a strong and united Cree Nation!



**VOTE
Will Nicholls**

As a candidate for Deputy Grand Chief, I'd like to let you know what I believe in. One of the things is our freedom to exercise the right to vote. Crees were only allowed to vote in Canadian elections in 1969. This was a hard-won right to just give up without a thought. I hope you will take the time to cast your ballot.

There are issues I feel strongly about. An example is rules on ethics and conflict-of-interest. These rules would help make Cree leaders more accountable. The Grand Council should also be at all local annual general assemblies for the same reason.

- Many Crees feel the election period should be longer. I agree. This would give everybody time to find out who and what the candidates are all about - so elections don't wind up being just a popularity contest.
- I've heard many people saying: No More Deals with Hydro-Quebec. I support this fully.
- Our youth feel they aren't listened to. I will. One project I think would do well in the Cree communities is called YouthBuild. This United States-based program has had great success. Young people help build and renovate homes in their communities, which would give them valuable skills and help ease our housing crisis.
- With a growing youth population, we need new opportunities in our communities. I believe a strong job-preference policy is needed to assist Crees returning from school.

Together, we are strong - divided we are weak.

Paid for by the Elect Will Nicholls Fund

VOTE

Candidate **Ashley Iserhoff** for the position of Deputy Grand Chief/Vice Chairman – GCCEI/CRA

I am a 25 year old member of the Cree Nation of Mistissini. I first came to political prominence when I was elected as a Youth Councillor in 1988. I was 14 years of age then and held this position for two years. In 1993, I was elected as Youth Chief of Mistissini (1 year).

In 1994, I was elected as a Councillor for the Cree Nation of Mistissini, a position that helped foster my continuing interests in politics to help all the people. I held this position until 1998. In 1995, I was elected for a one year term as Deputy Chief by the other members of the Council. During the elections of 1998, I was re-elected as a Council member. In that same year, I was also concurrently elected as Youth Grand Chief/Chairman of the Cree Nation Council (a term now of one year and a half). I also served as President of the Inter-Band Games of 1999.

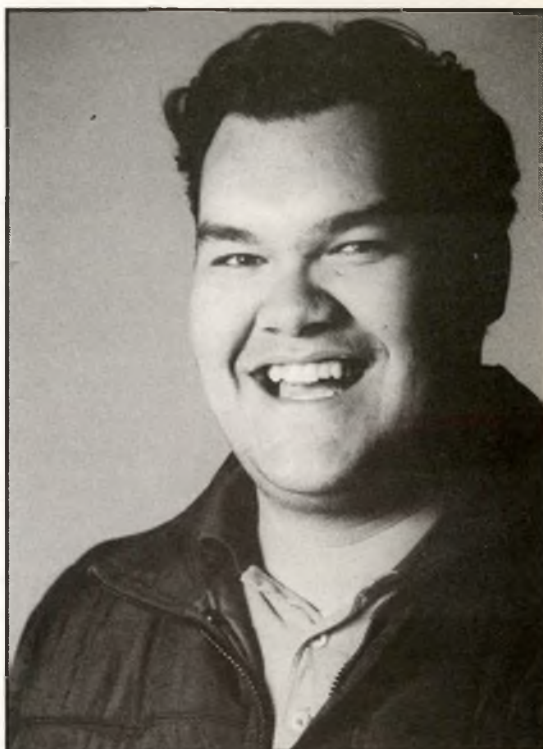
I have served on numerous local committees in Mistissini. I am currently a member of the GCCEI/CRA Working Group on Cree Nation Government. This regional working group is a forum established by the 1999 Annual General Assembly to revitalize Cree governance on Eeyou Istchee.

I strongly believe that the Cree Nation can achieve its vision and goals if all Cree Leaders and communities act together. Issues regarding the lack of housing, employment and natural resources are very important. High unemployment constitutes a crisis in the Cree communities and we need to focus on this problem. The Voice of the Cree People must be heard and respected by all governments. Cree rights and interests must be protected, especially if violations of those rights and interests will impact future generations.

I am young, dynamic, responsible, and energetic. I have accepted to take the challenge of running in the elections for the position of Deputy Grand Chief/Vice Chairman. I ask you to support me at the elections. May God bless all of you.

Wachiya!

Ashley Iserhoff



Time for a change

Robert Weistche was elected as chief of Waskaganish in a landslide vote on August 13. He was already busy with his chiefly duties when we caught up with him during his second day on the job.

-Alex Roslin

Congratulations!

Thank you.

So how do you feel?

That's a loaded question. (laughter) Different emotions - different feelings. When I found out about it, I was quite taken aback. It kind of hit me like a wave. Sometimes I wonder if I'm making the right move at this time. I felt, what am I doing? I'm chairman of the Cree School Board. It's good where I am. What am I doing? (laughter) Different things are going through your mind all the time. You're constantly thinking about what you're getting yourself into. It's quite far-out, the feeling I have.

What was the first thing you did after you heard the election results?

I went back to the vehicle. I was on the road coming back from Prince Edward Island. My family was there. And I gave the old Indian salute, the clenched fist. Po-wer! Po-wer! Po-wer! (laughter) I was with my boys and I was feeling the wave, the ripple effects coming out of the building where I was. My father-in-law was there too and he congratulated me. My boys were quite excited by everything. The funny thing was, when I called in I told everybody to be there. I want everybody to be there when I call in. I want you to know either way how it's going to go. You're going to be witness to this. (laughs) I think it was quite brave to do that. You could fall flat on your face.

A record number of people voted in the election - almost 70 per cent of eligible voters - compared to about 25 per cent of the people who normally vote. Why do you think there was such a big difference this time?

I think the voting that was done represented the youth coming out to vote. It was visible that they wanted to participate and get involved. And I think that's an expression, too, of people in their thinking - maybe they're hoping to see something new, some change come about. There's obviously an interest there. Why would people participate in that number? It just goes to show people want to show their support, their involvement and they want to have a say.

What do you think you stood for? What did you tell people you wanted to do when you became chief?

"I really feel that the millenium has been a long thousand years. People are tired and they are feeling maybe it's time for a change."



One evening prior to the election, there was a call-in show at the radio station. I was in the process of moving my family out on vacation. I was right around Quebec City at the time, driving out to PEI, so I didn't participate. But I did call in and I spoke to the people over the radio to tell them what I thought I stood for.

I really feel that the millenium has been a long thousand years. We're tired. People are tired and they are feeling maybe it's time for a change. It's time we see something new. This new millenium that's on the horizon is really beckoning. What kind of future are we going to have for our people and our children? What can we provide for them in terms of the direction we want to go? I talked about the need to go in a new direction, a

more open style of democratic government. I said we would be willing to listen to some of the concerns you have, to open it up for people to feel they are part of the process for change. We would allow that opportunity. Certainly more accountability on the part of the government, on the part of the band council, as well as the band employees and certainly the office of the chief.

And I think the other thing is equality. We need to have more representation throughout. People have to feel that they are part of the whole, that their participation is important. Certainly with the

cont'd on page 24



Waskaganish band right now, you can identify some of the issues we are facing. I mentioned these when I had the opportunity to speak. One of them is the finances of the band. We have incurred a deficit of over \$7 million (accumulated). People are kind of wondering, what am I doing to inherit such a problem of staggering proportions? What are we going to do? How are we going to deal with this? Is there going to be some kind of a recovery plan?

I talked about some of the issues affecting housing. People are living in overcrowded conditions; they live in substandard housing. I talked about the rotting conditions. People are living in unhealthy houses. And, of course, there is the crisis facing the youth. I think there should be a public forum dealing with the youth, where they could express some of their concerns. Unemployment is another situation that doesn't look too great. There are others, like community services and education issues.

I think there's a real need, first of all, for us to retake control over our lives, over our land and waters, projects that are being initiated on our lands. I felt we need to re-establish a sense of order, a sense of direction in the way things were going.

About the projects, there's the one proposal by Hydro-Quebec that would divert the Rupert River. Is there anything you'd like to say about that project?

I think I said all I had to say in *The Nation* - in the address I gave to the students who graduated in Wemindji (July 16 issue). I'm still of that same opinion. I think people need to be consulted, people need to be aware. People have to be involved. I don't think we, as chiefs, could just unilaterally take a decision like that where it affects the collective rights of the people. We have to take it back to the people and people have to be involved and give their consent.

I think, most importantly, people have to have the proper information. I don't think we're getting that now. People have different parts and pieces of the puzzle, but we don't have the whole. If we don't have the whole, how can you take a decision? How can you inform people when they have a right to know?

Right now, a lot of work has to be done to orient the new council. I'm not ready yet to take any decision. You could say we're in the discussion stage. As for myself, I would like to work collectively, in full cooperation with the regional entities such as the Grand Council. We elected them. They're our leadership and they represent us at that level. We should work with them toward a common solution.

Forestry is an issue that is of a lot of concern in some of the communities. In the southern end of Waskaganish, there's cutting on Muskuchii Mountain. Do you have any ideas on how that issue could be addressed?

I'm not in a position to comment right now on that. Things being what they are, sometimes with the information there may have been a vacuum there. I don't have all the information to take a position on that.

Are you going to be staying on as chairman of the Cree School Board?

No, I will be stepping down as chairman. I'm thinking it's going to be perhaps in December. I just want to stay on right now to ensure there is some continuity in the work we are doing with the board, to have closure. I want to make sure the transition is going to be smooth. I don't want to leave the board in a situation where they feel I just left abruptly.

Any final thoughts?

One of my greatest concerns, going back to the finances of the band, is first of all the new council - we're going to need to seriously make a political commitment to changes in the financial management, accountability and practices of the band. I'm committed to that. In line with that, I want the band to undergo an extensive financial review. I want to know everything that's going on with the band. I don't think we can start with what we have and hope to take the band from the deficit we have to try to make it turn around - which is what we want to do. We need to know where the money is coming from and where it's going - and who it's benefiting. And I want to report back to the people on this, to the band members. A special meeting will be called maybe in a nine to 12-month period following.

Not only that, what I would like to see is that the band commits itself to developing a complete and thorough recovery plan in written form - to make that commitment, to show we are committed to doing something.

When I was nominated, it was Elders who named me. Both women. And women, being what they are, their intuitive sense, their motherly role they play, their caring ways - it just goes to give us a message in what they see, the future of the youth, maybe their own children. It sent a strong message to me and it's one of the reasons, too, I decided to heed the call. And here I am today.

Did you ever think you'd be a chief?

I asked my mother that before the election - mom, did you ever think you were possibly raising a young child and he may one day be chief. And she said, no. (laughter) I don't know. I've never thought of it. But I think it was the confidence shown by the people, people who came and approached me and talked to me - and said, Robert, we want to see you there, we want to encourage you, we want you to think about it. And, Alex, when you're in a situation where you get called to the front line, you don't hold back and say, no, I'm going to stay back here in the trenches. You gotta go to the front line. This is Moscow! (laughter) It's true, you know. When you're called, it's your duty. You've got to do it.

Congratulations again.

Okay then. Thanks.

Billy Diamond: Why I left

We also spoke to former chief Billy Diamond to get his comments. We caught him in the middle of deciding whether to accept his nomination for Grand Chief.

I understand you were nominated for Grand Chief.

You're asking me the same question everybody is asking me. I haven't made up my mind so I can't tell you anything.

I also wanted to ask you what was the reason you decided not to run again for chief in Waskaganish.

Well, I've been chief for 11 years. That was too long. Eleven years in office is too long. We changed the bylaw. I recommended to the last council that a person can serve no more than two consecutive terms. That's what's called the Billy Diamond amendment. The community agreed. So I thought it would be wiser not to run. Eleven years in office is a long, long time. It gets to be very stressful. It's a long haul.

Does that mean you wanted a break from being in office?

Hey, you're going to be leading into assumptions. Give me a chance to think about it. In due time you shall hear.

Do you have any comments on the election that just happened? There was a record turnout.

No, I haven't made any comments and I haven't given any interviews. Normally, I don't comment.

Do you have any advice for the new chief?

Well, I understand he's announced he's going to get people together. And once he gets people together, when he comes to me, he'll come to me. He hasn't come to me so far. I have lots of advice. Thirty years of knowledge, 30 years of experience. That should count for something. And if you just want to discard that, that's up to the public.

He announced he wants to make changes in the way the band is run and have a review of the finances. Do you think that would be a good idea?

Well, that's the platform he ran on. I can't comment on that. I have no comment.

CLASSIFIEDS

100 BIRTHS

Congratulations to my cousin Orenda Petawabano and his husband Charlie Petawabano (J.R) on their birth of their first babyboy Michael born on July 1/99. I wish you both love, happiness and lots of joy. God bless you both and the precious baby boy. With Love: always your cousin Shania Boo-doo Longchap.

Congratulations to Mike and Agnes Pelletier. A baby girl was born for them to cherish on July 28, 1999, at 22:50, weighing in at 9 lbs., 5 oz. A sis for Caitlin!! A special thanks goes out to the team at OFRN's at Chibougamau Hospital. Much love from Jeannie and Brian in Chisasibi.

101-BIRTHDAYS

A big hug & kiss to my beautiful and wonderful mom on her birthday. I'll be thinking of you - and your present might be late, but it'll come all the way from England (or Amsterdam-we haven't decided yet). xoxoxoxoxox R + A.

Happy Sweet 16th Birthday to our daughter Veronica Longchap on August 13/99 happy birthday and many more to come we love you from: Mom & Dad (Nellie & Neil) (Mist)

HAPPY 14th BIRTHDAY to my good friend Angelina Brien on July 3/99 I hope you enjoyed your special day. Hope our friendship well never end once again HAPPY BIRTHDAY and many more to come From: Friend Cynthia Longchap (Mist)

To our sister Veronica Longchap we want to wish her a HAPPY SWEET 16th BIRTHDAY on August 13/99 we love you hope you enjoyed your special birthday. From: Priscilla, Tanya, Shania (Boo-doo) and your one and only brother John-Ryan Longchap (Mist)

First of all I want to wish my sister Veronica Longchap a HAPPY SWEET 16TH BIRTHDAY on August 13/99 Hope your

dreams come true as you blow out your candles I love you! From: your sis Cynthia Longchap (Mist)

Happy 15th belated Birthday to my cousin Crystal Coon-Come on July 31/99 Happy Birthday cuz and many more to come and GOOD LUCK! with ?? ha! (Joke) buzz! From: your cuz Cynthia Longchap (Mist)

We would like to wish a happy 13th birthday to our cousin Hazel Pelletier (Wadden). We hope that we will see you soon...From Caitlin and Britney.

Around this time of year comes a time when I think of going fishing with my favorite partner, my father. This special Happy Birthday wish if for Jimmy Neacappo. You know "nuuhtaa", along with mom you've shown us what it takes to be strong and how to keep our family tight. All this to say thank-you for all the years you've been such a great dad and lets not forget the years to come. Have a great day! Mimie xxx

300-PERSONALS

I Nannie Iserhoff (mother) living at 323 Mistissini Boulevard, Mistissini Lake will present at Directeur de l'etat Civil, asking to change the name Samuel AndreW Blacksmith to Victor Samuel Andrew Blacksmith. Nannie Iserhoff.

Are alcohol and drugs destroying your life? Do you want to help yourself? Maybe we can help. We are alcoholics anonymous. We meet in Mistissini on Saturday evenings, 8 p.m., in the basement of St. John's Anglican church.

Seeking email pen pals. Males or females, doesn't matter. I am a female. Just right to me at my email address, Guess_me@hotmail.com. Just tell me about yourself and I'll tell you above myself when

CLASSIFIEDS

I write back. I promised to respond soon! Hope you write to me!

A "BIG" HELLO to my friend/ cousin in Waswanipi Patricia Trapper Hey! how is it going over there me I'm fine! expect your letter soon!!!! I miss you take care of yourself bye! From: Friend in Mistissini Cynthia Longchap

In the Montreal area there is interest to learn Cree. For teachers of Cree please e-mail Aboriginal Women of Montreal at famawm@cam.org This is a non-profit organisation, and AWM greatly appreciates any help in funding or otherwise that is offered. Meegwetch.

Hello. :) I am a Cree individual with a cat and a room for rent in a large 5&1/2 for 250.00 /mo. negotiable, location Montreal. Non-smoking student or professional preferred. Please reply at (514)284-3097.

Not a lover and not a secret but an admirer of the Nation. You people are making me feel less like a foreigner in my own nation of the Cree people in this so called country of Canada. Thank You!

Dear Everybody, My daughter Jolene starts school this month (August 18,1999). It's going to be exciting and new to her for a while, and I wish you would sort of treat her gently.You see, after a while she will miss her baby sister Leona and her big brother Noah, and of course mom. She's been the queen of the house. She's been boss of the backyard. She's been always around to watch over her little sister while playing outside, but now - things are going to be different. Her little sister Leona, oldest brother Noah and I will be moving to Sudbury, Ont., but she's staying here with Daddy and her big brother Stevie. She will start on her great adventure that will probably include wars, tragedy and sorrow. So, Everybody, I

wish you would sort of take her by her young hand and teach her things she will have to know. Teach her - but gently, it doesn't take her long to understand things, she's a very bright girl. Teach her that for every bully, there is a hero; that for every crooked politician, there is a dedicated leader; that for every enemy, there is a friend. Teach her the wonders of books, she loves to be read to. Give her time to ponder the mystery of butterflies in the field, the clouds in the sky, and the flowers on the hill. Teach her it is far more honorable to fail than to cheat. Teach her to have faith in her own ideas, even if someone tells her they are wrong. Teach her gently Everyone, this is a big order - we say it takes a community to raise a child, see what you can do. She's such a beautiful soul, don't hurt her. I love my daughter. Sincerely, Jane S.

To William E. Nicholls. Good luck in the election. Break a leg. Arnie Schwartznegger.

To Dee. This is from Steve. Did you hear? I run like a girl.

To Chino. Shwiiiiing!

100-LOVERS AND SECRET ADMIRERS

Dearest Jamie, I just would like for you to know that i am missing you. Each and every day is not the same without you around. Sometimes in life you find someone who changes everything just by being part of it, i know that you will always be part of mine Even if things are different for us now, you will always have and hold a very special place in my life. My heart will always be filled with joy just because you were once mine. I want you to know that i'll always be there for you. (Sacheedin) T.P.

I would like to send this one to a very special person of mine, he is Christopher Stephen from Waskaganish, Quebec. Christopher, I would

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like to let you know that i always think of you. And you will always be in my mind, I'll never forget you. I hope you will come back after you go to Edmonton. Because I really need to see you again. I am so proud of you, keep up the good work! You are special to me. I can still remember when you walked into my life. It was a moment to remember. I want to let you know that you are...creative, handsome, responsible, interesting, special, tender, open, protective, hero, entertaining, respectful and also....sexy, tall, expert, prime, honourous, experienced, noble. Christopher, your name stands out like this

and you mean the world to me. And I'll always love you no matter what people say. Love always, your girl who loves you so much.

I love you Hugh Grant. Even though you run like a girl and you pulled a Bill Clinton on me with that Crack Ho, Divine Brown. From Elizabeth Hurley.

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